

INTELLIGENCE

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT
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REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DO NOT CIRCULATE

DATE DISTR. 4 December 1952

SUBJECT

1. Maneuvers in the Sofia Area
2. Aircraft at the Vrazhdebna Airfield

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(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. On Saturday, 1 November 1952, there were definite signs that the maneuvers which started in mid-October in the Vakarel (N4233 E2343) area, southeast of Sofia, and which involved the recall of an estimated 10,000 to 36,000 reservists from the Sofia area, had been concluded.
 2. On the afternoon of 1 November 1952, approximately 30 flat-cars loaded with military equipment were observed standing on the siding at Gara Kostenets Banya (N4218 E2352). These flat-cars were loaded as follows:
 - a. Approximately 10 cars each carrying two tractors requisitioned from the MTS (Mashino Traktorna Stantsiya; Machine Tractor Station);
 - b. Five cars each carrying two light field guns of prewar make; and
 - c. The remainder, loaded with horse-drawn transport.
- Each railway car had a number of troops wearing black service insignia.
3. On 1 November 1952, a large tent camp was observed in the area between Zvenichevo (N4211 E2414) and Pazardzhik (N4211 E2419), on both sides of the Maritsa River. This camp was allegedly occupied by at least 1,000 troops. A considerable number of civilian horse-drawn vehicles were observed moving between Pazardzhik and the camp site and carrying soldiers' personal equipment.
 4. On 2 November 1952, motor transport and unidentified artillery columns were observed moving between Ikhtiman (N4226 E2348), and Novi Khan (N4236 E2336).

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5. On 26 October 1952, over 20 aircraft, most of them YAK-9s, were observed parked in front of the Bulgarian Air Force buildings on the northern boundary of the Sofia Vrazhdebna Airfield. These aircraft were parked close together and covered with camouflage netting. On 3 November 1952, only approximately six planes were observed at this location.

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